

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A keypad of a portable wireless terminal, comprising:
a sheet having a plurality of holes; and
a plurality of keys independently fastened within respective ones of the holes,
wherein the keys are detached from one another and are supported by the sheet within a housing
of the portable wireless terminal, wherein each key includes a recess for receiving a portion of
the sheet near the hole, and wherein portions of the key located above and below the recess
overlap and contact the portion of the sheet near the hole, and wherein the portion of each key
located below the recess defines a stopping portion for holding the key within the hole; ~~said~~
~~keypad further comprising:~~
~~another sheet including a plurality of dome switches aligned with respective ones~~
~~of the keys; and~~
~~an adhesive layer coupled between the keys and dome switches,~~
~~wherein the adhesive layer includes a plurality of protrusions aligned with~~
~~respective ones of the dome switches, each of the protrusions applying a force to close a~~
~~respective one of the dome switches when one of the keys is pressed.~~
2. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 1, wherein the keys include stopping
portions which fasten the keys within respective ones of the holes.

3. (Original) The keypad of claim 2, wherein the stopping portions are integrally formed with the keys.

4. (Original) The keypad of claim 2, wherein the stopping portions and the keys are made from a same material.

5. (Original) The keypad of claim 2, wherein the stopping portions are located at lower surfaces of the keys.

6-7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 49 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the adhesive layer is adjacent a lower surface of the sheet and contacts lower surfaces of the keys, said adhesive layer providing additional force for holding the keys within the holes of the sheet.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The keypad of claim 8, wherein the adhesive layer includes a silicon material.

11. (Original) The keypad of claim 1, wherein the keys are formed of a plastic material.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for fabricating a keypad of a portable wireless terminal, comprising:

forming a plurality of holes in a sheet; and

fastening a plurality of independent keys within respective ones of the holes, the keys being detached from one another and supported by the sheet within a housing of the portable wireless terminal, said fastening including:

inserting the keys into the holes by an insert injection molding method, each key being inserted by coupling a recess formed along a perimeter of the key to a respective one of the holes in the sheet, and wherein portions of each key above and below the recess overlap and contact a portion of sheet near a respective one of the holes, ~~said method further comprising:~~

~~attaching another sheet including a plurality of dome switches in alignment with respective ones of the keys; and~~

~~forming an adhesive layer between the keys and the dome switches, the adhesive layer including a plurality of protrusions aligned with respective ones of the dome switches, each of the protrusions applying a force to close a respective one of the dome switches when one of the keys is pressed, wherein the adhesive layer applies a force to hold the keys in the holes.~~

13-16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50 ~~42~~, wherein the adhesive layer includes a silicon material.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the keys are formed of a plastic material.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
forming the keys using a pin-point gate method.

20. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
spraying the keys to enhance tactility of the keys.

21. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 1, wherein the sheet is substantially parallel to a front case of the portable wireless device.

22. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 1, wherein the keys protrude above a front case of the portable wireless device.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 49 [[1]], wherein each dome switch includes a curved metal surface which deflects to touch an electrical contact point coupled to a circuit board when pressure is applied to a respective one of the keys.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 49 [[1]], wherein the adhesive layer applies a force to hold the keys in the holes.

27. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 49 [[1]], wherein the adhesive layer is substantially parallel to the sheet having the holes.

28. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 27, wherein the adhesive layer is also substantially parallel to a front case of the portable wireless terminal.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
forming the sheet so as to be substantially parallel to a front case of the portable wireless device.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the keys are fastened to protrude above a front case of the portable wireless device.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49 ~~[[12]]~~, wherein each dome switch includes a curved metal surface which deflects to touch an electrical contact point coupled to a circuit board when pressure is applied to a respective one of the keys.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49 ~~[[12]]~~, wherein the adhesive layer is substantially parallel to the sheet having the holes.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the adhesive layer is also substantially parallel to a front case of the portable wireless terminal.

37. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 6, wherein the recess is a circumferential recess.

38. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 6, wherein the recess extends from an interior of the key to an outermost circumferential surface between the portions of the key that are above and below the recess.

39. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 7, wherein the stopping portion is located along a lowest surface of the key.

40. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 8, wherein the key and adhesive layer are made from different materials.

41. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 9, wherein the adhesive layer is a substantially planar integral layer extending below the plurality of keys.

42. (Previously Presented) A keypad, comprising:
a sheet having a plurality of holes;
a plurality of keys independently fastened within respective ones of the holes,
wherein the keys are detached from one another and are supported by the sheet within a housing of the portable wireless terminal; and
an adhesive layer adjacent a lower surface of the sheet and contacting lower surfaces of the keys, said adhesive layer providing additional force for holding the keys within

the holes of the sheet and including a plurality of protrusions aligned with respective ones of the keys, and

wherein each key includes a recess for receiving a portion of the sheet near the hole, portions of the key above and below the recess overlapping and contacting the portion of the sheet near the hole, and wherein the recess extends from an interior of the key to an outermost circumferential surface between the portions of the key above and below the recess, the portion of the key below the recess defining a stopping portion having a lower surface coincident with a lower surface of the key.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the recess is a circumferential recess.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the recess extends from an interior of the key to an outermost circumferential surface between the portions of the key that are above and below the recess.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the portion of each key below the recess defines a stopping portion for holding the key within the hole.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the stopping portion is located along a lowest surface of the key.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the key and adhesive layer are made from different materials.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the adhesive layer is a substantially planar integral layer extending below the plurality of keys.

49. (New) The keypad of claim 1, wherein said keypad further comprises:
another sheet including a plurality of dome switches aligned with respective ones of the keys; and
an adhesive layer coupled between the keys and dome switches,
wherein the adhesive layer includes a plurality of protrusions aligned with respective ones of the dome switches, each of the protrusions applying a force to close a respective one of the dome switches when one of the keys is pressed.

50. (New) The keypad of claim 1, wherein the plurality of keys are independently fastened within respective ones of the holes without an adhesive, said keys having a substantially uniform height.

51. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein said method further comprises:
- attaching another sheet including a plurality of dome switches in alignment with respective ones of the keys; and
- forming an adhesive layer between the keys and the dome switches, the adhesive layer including a plurality of protrusions aligned with respective ones of the dome switches, each of the protrusions applying a force to close a respective one of the dome switches when one of the keys is pressed, wherein the adhesive layer applies a force to hold the keys in the holes.